

The opponents also sought to “button-hole” certain senators and representatives at a \$1,500 per person joint DSCC-DCCC dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel on May 23, 1995. In a May 12 memo to tribal leaders, Kitto stated that there would “probably be at least 40 Senators and as many as 150 Congresspersons, plus key members of the Administration attending” the event. Kitto stated that he had “made arrangements for people representing Indian Tribes to sit at the same tables and to have a Senator or Congressperson to be a guest at that table.” Rita Lewis – deputy director of the DSCC and one of the organizers of the event – told investigators that Kitto assisted her in organizing an Indian presence at the dinner, as well as in getting the tribal leaders seated where they wanted to be at the dinner.¹⁹³

Sen. Feingold recalls Oneida lobbyist Scott Dacey approaching him during the course of the May 23 event and asking him to contact Secretary Babbitt about Hudson. Feingold remembers that he cut Dacey off and told him that he would only weigh in on Hudson through proper channels because it would have been inappropriate to have an *ex parte* telephone contact with the Secretary.¹⁹⁴

Other members, however, did not share Feingold’s reservations about calling Babbitt. Rep. Obey, who had written Babbitt to express his opposition to the Hudson proposal on March

¹⁹³In an April 1, 1995, memorandum to his tribal clients, Kitto stated that Lewis said she would communicate with the White House “about the political affect this proposal [Hudson] could have on the 1996 Presidential and Senatorial campaigns.” Lewis told investigators that, although she recalls Kitto stopping by the DSCC after she arrived there in March 1995, she does not recall discussing the Hudson issue with him or ever telling him that she would contact the White House. Lewis also noted that she would not have stated as much because she simply did not have any “juice” with the White House. OIC Interview of Rita Lewis, Nov. 17, 1998, at 2-3.

¹⁹⁴With support from his lobbying records, Dacey disputes that this conversation took place at the May 23rd dinner, which he believes he did not attend, and contradicts Feingold’s recollection of the exchange. Rather, Dacey recalls, as he told Feingold staffer Mary Frances Repko at the time that Feingold had told Dacey at the May 23 dinner that he would call Babbitt, and would do it confidentially. Feingold told investigators that he told Dacey just the opposite. Repko and Feingold legislative director Suzanne Martinez told us that Feingold told them as much – that he had told Dacey that he would not call Babbitt – when they approached Feingold about Dacey’s statement at the time.